

Horsefly River Roundtable
 Box 354
 Horsefly BC
 V0L 1L0



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 Horsefly River Roundtable

Horsefly River Roundtable (HRR) Regular Meeting Minutes
 January 15, 2026, 7:00 pm
 Horsefly Library, Horsefly BC or by Zoom

Present		Regrets	
		Ray Englund	Kirsten Saunders
Elaine Armagost	Zoom	Paul Brammer	Steven Beigh
Helen Englund	Zoom	Beat Oshwald	Willem Faasse
Brian Englund		Arts On The Fly	Jane Fitschen
Lee Shaftsmas		Nancy Beigh	Esther Oshwald
Claudio Rothenbacher		Suzanne Englund	Tanya Tervit
Sue Hemphill	Zoom	Ali Waterhouse	Paul Hearsey
Susan Woermke	zoom	Analise Shaftsmas	Sandy McNie
Rick Walters		Bill Ayers	Rose Christianson
Lori Walters		Ricky Seelhoff	Lyle Williams
Regrets		Chad Seelhoff	Faye Knox
Leonard Halwas		Alan Crosby	Monika Schlaepfer
Bill Lloyd		Phil Hartman	Cait Gentle Riverside Society BC
Ardine Joss		Pauline Priadka	Blaine Bowie
Tina Rezansoff		Craig Abbot	Chad Gosling
Lisa Gosling		Richard Hogan	Rainer Krumsiek
Fawny Michel		Annie Murphy	Marlyne Osinchuk

7:15 to 8:15

Zoom Presentation by Janelle Hunt and Dawn Ross with Metro Vancouver and Rene Carl Dionne with SYLVIS, salesman for Metro Vancouver's biosolids called Nutrifor.
 Notes of this presentation attached in correspondence.

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Chair Englund called the meeting to order at 7:00

Secretary Armagost moved to adopt the agenda Chair Englund seconded
 Carried

Treasurer Englund moved to adopt the minutes of December 18, 2025 Member Rothenbacker
 seconded
 Carried

Financial Report

Treasurer Englund presented the financial report.

JANUARY MEETING FINANCIALS

HORSEFLY RIVER ROUNDTABLE			
BALANCE SHEET - 2026			
CATEGORY	Dec 18, 2025	Jan 15, 2026	COMMENTS
GENERAL	\$ 2444.17	\$2829.17	SAW – Donation - \$375 Membership - \$10
DFO/CIP	\$4447.79	\$4420.84	Bank Maintenance – 2.95 Reimbursement – Venue Rental \$24.00 Helen
BOARDWALK	\$16,614.14	\$16,614.14	No Change
BIO SOLIDS		\$335.49	Private Donation
SALMON FESTIVAL	\$1392.44	\$1392.44	No change
STREAMKEEPERS PSF	\$1977.37	\$1977.38	No change
TOTAL	\$26875.91	\$27569.45	agrees with the January 13, 2026, statement

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Received \$375.00 from SAWS, \$10.00 in memberships and a private donation of \$345.49 for biosolids testing.

Secretary Armagost moved moved to adopt the financial report, Chair Englund seconded
Carried

DIRECTOR/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Directors

Declaration On The Rights Of The Horsefly River

We have been invited to present to Cattleman's and the Horsefly Board of Trade. 13 members and 17 non members have gone onto the website and added support. Three SAWS members have signed their support. No reply from the Cariboo Regional District, MLA, working to present to our First Nations Groups. Scout Island has not supported formally they will meet in

Treasurer Englund

Replace Boardwalk on River Trail Work Plan Charitable Status

Carried Forward

Secretary Armagost

Horsefly River Fisheries Sensitive Watershed Working Group

Next meeting January 20, 9:00 am 540 Borland, Cariboo Room. Minutes of the November 25th attached in correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Remove Tilting Pump House By Rick Twin Rivers

Carried Forward

Prospect Ridge Resources near Lemon Lake

There is some mention of the Prospect Ridge Camelot going on in the report. It looks like they have another application in for additional drilling — if and when? Their stock was up for a short time, but is settling a little, but could be driven by their other projects.

DFO Spawning Channel should be used for sockeye spawners

Chair Englund and Treasurer Englund need to put wording together to contact DFO

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NEW BUSINESS

March 7, 2026 AGM

Start at 10:30, ensure the Horsefly Community Hall is available. Directors are responsible to bring a craft/food/art as a donation for the silent auction.

Spring Burn for River Park

Ana Lomavatu, Wildlife Technician with Cariboo Fire Center email of January 13, 2026:

Hello Everyone,

I am reaching out to confirm prescribed burn sites for the 2026 season. I was wondering if you all are interested in a prescribed burn on the Horsefly River Spawning Site again. All the documentation is still valid, so it would just be a matter of watching for the burn window.

Please let me know within the next two weeks.

Thank you,



Ana Lomavatu

Wildfire Technician

Central Cariboo Zone | BC Wildfire Service

Desk: (250) 302-4663 | Cell: (250) 267-7183

Report Wildfires: 1-800-663-5555 or *5555

Discussion was around whether we should burn the field portion of the River Park in the spring of 2026.

Treasurer Englund made a motion that we burn the river park in the spring of 2026. Director Walters seconded
Carried

Correspondence

Horsefly Board of Trade letter of December 27, 2025

Horsefly Fisheries Sensitive Watershed Working Group meeting minutes of November 27, 2025
Janelle Hunt and Dawn Ross with Metro Vancouver and Carl Dionne with SYLVIS notes from Jan 15, 2026 presentation

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Horsefly District Board of Trade

P.O. Box 83, Horsefly, BC V0L 1L0
Phone: 250-620-3350 E-mail: lbartsch4@gmail.com

December 27, 2025

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Re: Horsefly River Watershed Rights of Nature or Personhood

Dear Horsefly River Roundtable

In response to your request for support of the "Horsefly River Watershed Rights of Nature or Personhood" the Horsefly District Board of Trade (HDBoT) directors would like to arrange a meeting.

The purpose of the meeting would be for HDBoT members to see your presentation (as given to the CRD on November 14, 2025) and to have the opportunity to ask questions about your proposal.

On December 17, 2025 HDBoT held a meeting and voted in favour of an information gathering session with the Horsefly River Roundtable.

We all have felt frustration over the lack of control over industry in our area and wish for the Horsefly River to be protected.

HDBoT members expressed concern over a few points:


Lack of clarity on what activities will be permitted on or near the Horsefly River

How far the Horsefly River's "Rights of Nature" would reach (for example The Moffat, Little Horsefly River, etc which feed into Horsefly River

There are already agencies in place protecting the Horsefly River: DFO under authority of the Federal Government, and the Ministry of Environment Under the authority of the Provincial Government. Will another level of Governance help or just create another level of paperwork.

Looking forward to meeting with you to increase our understanding.

Sincerely,


Leonard Teppema, President
HDBoT

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I' Horsefly Fisheries Sensitive Watershed Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.

540 Borland Street, Cariboo Room

Present: Carole Mahood (WLRS), Ashley Tod (Range, DCC), Morgan Robinson (Range, DCC), John Walker (WLFN), Elaine Armagost (HRR), Brain Englund (HRR), Marco Passeri (Tolko), Jenna Swanson (Tolko), Cheyenne Robertson (Whispering Pines/Clinton Band), Kerri Howse (DCC), Mauro Calabrese (West Fraser), Aline Lachapelle (Stewardship, DCC)

Agenda:

A) Review last meeting minutes

B) Updates from West Fraser

- Operationally 90 ha pine salvage in Moffat, no harvest yet but likely will this winter.
- Still waiting on hydrologist report for area that WG did field tour last year, likely will recommend commercial thinning 25% removal through skid trails, not sure on mechanism of removal.
- Some hydrology reports can be released, but waiting for Forest Practice Board to finalize 2025-26 reports before releasing other hydrologist report to HRR.

C) Cheyanne – No updates

D) Updates from WLRS (Carole Mahood)

- Big Reorg after Strike for WLRS,
 - Mike Milne was approved to come 2 days this summer, will be coming back on contract to finalize reporting .
 - Alan Egilson went out to complete WQEE re-assessments, Carla Grimson has been pulling water temp loggers but lost some due to high water levels and battery issues.
 - Have shared all WQEE & stream/riparian assessment data with the Forest Practice Board, looking at releasing WLRS FSW audit report to Working Group, hopefully by end of year.
- ACTION:** Carole M. to follow up with Carla G. on CABIN data (what is captured in water quality samples – minerals, etc?)

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CABIN water chemistry parameters: [CABIN Water Chemistry Parameters.xlsx](#)

ACTION: Carole M. to find info on what it would take to establish a new snow pillow location.

Email from Tony Litke, ENV Snow Survey Program Supervisor re: establishing new snow survey locations: [RE_Establishing Snow Survey Locations_.pdf](#)

E) Updates from Kerri Howse

- Miller Road Wildfire Initiation, 35 Hectares roughly, was approved before strike started in September.
- TSR ongoing, delayed again. Preliminary modelling done, looking at live volume only. Hoping to have discussion paper out soon.
- No detailed forest health survey this year, but will be doing some flying for DF beetle

F) Updates from Ashley Tod (Range Officer)

- LBI not approved due to staffing and restraints.
 - Wind Referrals (Moffat/Woodjam), Gold Mine update for Lemon Lake/Prospect Ridge; referred proper seed mixture for them to use.
- ACTION:** Ashley T. to send Prospect Ridge email to Brandy to add to minutes

G) Updates from Toiko (Marco Passeri & Jenna Swanson)

- Prairie Creek 2-3 Contractors working in area, Hytest in back of Teapot, Iniki Bros in Crooked, San Jose in Tisdale, some deactivations culvert removals and water bars.
- Camp set up in Horsefly to relieve traffic
- 13 WQEE assessments, only 1 ranked higher than a "Low" and it was fixed.

H) Updates from Elaine HRR

- Ditched metal boardwalk,
- Norm Zimhelt coming for training course,
- HRR looking into becoming Charitable Status.
- Windfarm bringing 3 phase power for mine?,
- keeping concerns on the cattle deaths outside Quesnel area,



- private landowners spreading Bio Solids, HRR passed motion to spend money to do testing.
- Eco justice helping draft declaration for Horsefly watershed, website has drone footage of salmon clearing debris and having troubles laying eggs.
- Have asked Eric Valdal (WLRS Exec Dir) to amend FSW Order (6 months later still no answer)
- Testimonial read by Elaine from Woodjam Ranch
- Sockeye run up, Run size tripled, low run areas compromised (lower river from Woodjam Ranch, lots of silt)

AL: Black Creek Rd radio chatter too much (reports of close calls)

- Spawning Channel wasn't open (DFO not present at meeting) needs to be cleaning out yearly, Water Hemlock in Spawning Channel.

I) Updates from John Walker WLFN

- Wildlife trail cameras up for Elk Z Road, 2300 Rd, and Black Creek Rd,
- doing road rehab 120km of non-status roads in Tisdall & Sucker areas. Tisdale, Belle Lake, Spokin Lake fronts grass seeded, April- May plan to have trees planted.
- Developed 3 commercial thinning projects (McKusky, Doreen, Elbow/Bosc areas). Study in the works on Commercial thinning affects in watershed, mixed/ pine stands, previously harvested (40 yrs age)
- FLP updates:
 - o DMH moving into technical table
 - o Fire & water key themes in both DCC & DMH FLPs
 - o John & Cheyenne are involved with both FLPs
 - o Potential watershed approach (vs LU-based) but at a large watershed scale

ACTION: Carole M. to present on GEF Watershed Condition & the Quesnel FLP at next meeting

J) Set Next Bimonthly Meeting

Tuesday January 20th, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. in Cariboo Room located on 2nd floor at 540 Borland Street in Courthouse Building

ACTION: John W to send out meeting invite

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Biosolids Presentation Notes

Presenters were:

Janelle Hunt Program Manager with Metro Vancouver
Dawn Ross Program Director with Metro Vancouver
Rene Carl Dionne with SYLVIS

Slide show consisted of an overview of Metro Vancouver Program and a Sylvis presentation regarding various research projects.

All have benefits and drawbacks

Metro Vancouver feels their biosolids are beneficial because of their rigorous quality control program, they educate residents about what can go down drains, and they have Sewer Use Bylaws

Questions/Answers and Discussion as follows:

Q: Do you have any reports on the Biosolid tests before they are spread? Show us samples and what kind of fertilizer do you use on drylands, are you using this on potatoes or corn crops?

Janelle says they test daily and track every load and know exactly where it goes, Sylvis uses soil sampling results to calculate how much to apply. There are set backs from all water courses, no impact to water has been found. 30 meters from water is the set back.

Sylvis referred to the table from another site that was in the presentation, the quality of the biosolids is shown, we can share Horsefly ranch samples from 5 years ago. They are doing a second layer on some of the areas previously treated.

Q: What lab are you using for these tests?

Use different labs: Element for metals and for pharmaceuticals they use SGS Access in Victoria

Q: BIOSOLID Sludge coming to Horsefly, what was the ph level and organic matter?

A: Between 6.5 and 7.5. Only apply sites with at least 5.5. Organic analysis are on a dry matter basis, biosolids have 60-70% organic matter. 75% of the content in the trucks is water. 35% is solid, 60% of that will be organic matter.

Q: What kind of fertilizer is in biosolids?

A: 60% nutrients, mostly nitrogen and phosphorus mostly

Q: What about the PFAS content?

A: Referenced Linda McCarthy studies and stated: if you use biosolids at a proper rate there are no impacts.

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Here are some reports with Linda McCarthy, note they are a decade old and Canada did not require tests for PFAS until October 2024.

<https://cwn-rce.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/McCarthy-Risks-Biosolids-2015.pdf>

https://cwn-rce.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/CWN-EN-McCarthy_2-2016-5Pager-Web.pdf

Q: Is there other testing in corn and potatoes?

A: It is not used on food crops for humans. Metro Vancouver has a diversity of different products, and carefully determine where biosolids can best be used.

Q: What about forever chemicals or PFAS?

A: Metro Vancouver is not concerned as there is no industrial waste in the Metro Vancouver area.

Comment: Sounds like you are not concerned about PFAS because the source is Metro Vancouver. In many areas biosolids have been banned because of PFAS.

A: Metro Vancouver says that PFAS exist in biosolids, but they are everywhere. They are in receipt papers from stores, dental floss, anything that has a non stick coating. The scientific community is learning more about PFAS and so far have not figured out how to remove them from biosolids.

Comment: The Horsefly River is a Fisheries Sensitive Watershed, the Horsefly River Roundtable has been fighting for almost two decades to protect the water, animals and fish that live here. We are currently working towards establishing Rights of Nature to preserve the intricate hydrological cycle, prevent pollution and allow the river to exist and live forever. We know that Capital Regional District doesn't allow biosolids on agricultural land and that Organic certification after application is not possible. We know that the Canadian allowance for PFAS is 30 ng/L. It equates to a postage stamp in the state of Texas. It is like looking for a needle in a haystack, we are not just worried about PFAS we are worried about fentanyl, hospital waste, nano plastics.

Q: You don't get it, we don't pollute and we don't want anything extra coming here. Water moves here, you say there's not very much PFAS, it's only small amounts. What's the accumulation? We know that 30m setback is not enough. As for testing, around here you would have the testing from fall through spring freshet and into early summer. We want you to supply test kits and you can pay for the lab bill.

A: Sylvis says only small areas are treated, they are 30 meters from a river, then there are areas close to rivers. Let's do some testing. Not sure that any of the sites in Horsefly would be suitable for testing.

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Q: What about the landscape level, are there other places producing biosolids? Are they coming from other areas?

A: Sylvis has 12 clients, Metro Vancouver, Capital Regional District, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Agassiz, Prince George etc. Horsefly probably has a waste water plant which would be a source for biosolids. Biosolids can be either Class A or Class B.

Q: What about the agricultural producers, how does that work?

A: Very economical for them. There is no cash transaction, Sylvis does everything and pay them a small fee to spread the biosolids in order to cover their costs.

Q: How is it decided where you can or cannot spread it? When you prepare a plan for the producers, you apply biosolids with equipment and provide funding to do the work, how do you monitor the storage of the product and the application of it?

A: Sylvis doesn't just write the plan and leave, they go on site during delivery, collect every slip for every pile. Application is with Sylvis equipment, its all residual management. There has never been a catastrophe anywhere in BC. Metro Vancouver does on site visits with Syvis and Arrow, the trucking company to ensure there is room for the product and it is safe for the trucks.

Q: Biosolids is a back haul for trucks at Mt. Polley, there is metal etc in the trucks, how do you make sure the residue in the trucks isn't dumped on the fields.

A: Metro Vancouver decontaminates the trucks on both ends.

Comment: My experience in hauling biosolids is that there is a significant glitch, in cleaning the trucks.

Metro Vancouver has done monitoring and has only found one load that was contaminated with mining residue and that load was disposed of.

Q. The Horsefly Ranch was observed and the amount that was spread noted. There are concerns all the way to Pemberton and the potato fields. Is it possible to get results from tests on the Horsefly Ranch so we can use our expertise to examine them and make independent conclusions?

A: Metro Vancouver can provide a form that we can fill out requesting the sample results.

Comment: You did not answer is Organic certification is not available after application of biosolids.

A: Sylvis says it depends on what organization your Organic Certification is through. Metro Vancouver says there is a three year wait time after application then you can have organic certification.

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Comment: How is it that the Capital Regional District does not allow biosolids to be spread on agricultural land?

A: Two board members are against biosolids at the CRD the rest are all for using the products, two directors are politically motivated to keep it off agriculture lands.

Q: What about bioaccumulation, we know biosolids are not being used on potato or corn fields, but if the cattle eat the plants grown on biosolids for 5 to 10 years, can these chemicals accumulate on the cattle and be passed on to their offspring?

A: Metro Vancouver has tested sites that have received biosolids for 15 years and have not found any accumulation. They take several samples on each site over time in horsefly and will have two sets of data from the Horsefly Ranch that they can sample and track.

There was a Letter to the editor recently published in Ontario Farmer June 17, 2025. We know that biosolids are human waste and that there are 80,000 chemicals in them and there's no way Metro Vancouver is testing for all of them as tests are very expensive. That they contain hospital waste like chemotherapy and other drugs that are common in Metro Vancouver. Our garbage in Horsefly is hauled out on a truck once a week. We want to conserve and protect the river. You need to do better homework on our area, look more closely at our Fisheries Sensitive Watershed and a river that will be provided with rights of nature.

Metro Vancouver and Sylvis were apologetic, that they didn't realize what the Horsefly River Roundtable was doing.

Q: We have heard through our small town rumour mill that there is no human waste in your biosolid product called Nutrifer. How did that happen? Your Marketing and promotional materials are not providing both sides of the coin. , Marketing is very slick, pointing out all the benefits and supporting claims with research and stating that PFOS are everywhere in daily life. So your produce is safe.

A: Metro Vancouver/Syvis: We don't know how that could have happened.

More discussion around legislation and regulation, here are some links:

Ministry of Environment will have a page with biosolids and the regulations on them. Organic matter recycling regulation: https://www.ecosia.org/search?q=Organic+matter+recycling+bc&tts=st_asaf_macos

Here are other piece of legislation that are pertinent:

Public Health Act, and where applicable the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Local Government Act: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/organic-waste/biosolids/regulatory_framework.pdf

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env.omrr.reg.reviews@gov.bc.ca (from this site: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/food-and-organic-waste/regulations-guidelines/biosolids-in-bc>).

Code of Practice: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/recycling/landappguidelines.pdf>

Here is the letter to the editor from Ontario Farmer June 17, 2025 that was cited:

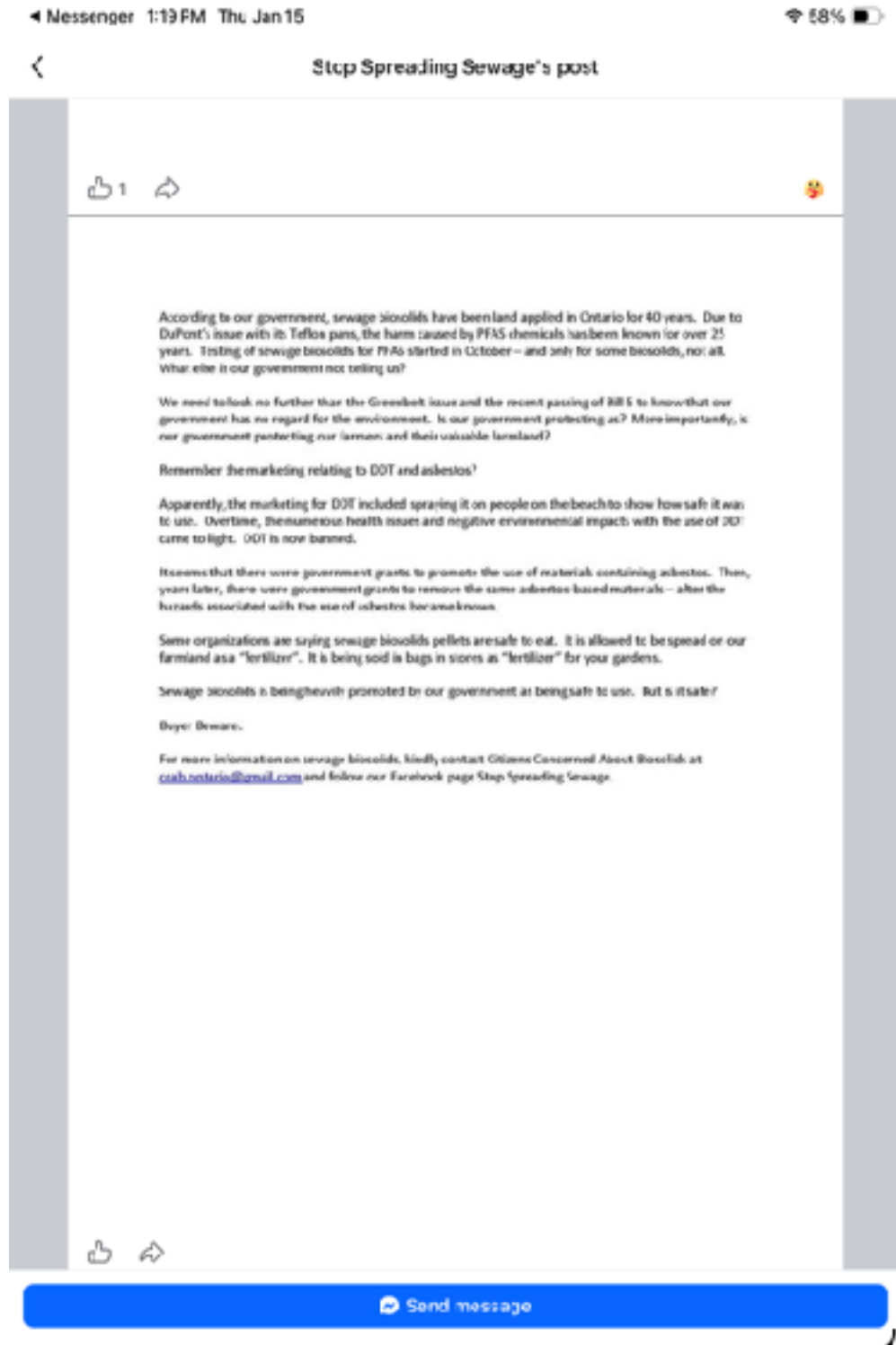


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Next meeting February 19, 2026 at the Horsefly Library or by Zoom

Chair Englund moved to adjourn the meeting, Treasurer Englund seconded.

Carried

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12

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